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CASE MP/3-21927/A/AC 536

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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6/30/04  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Group Art Unit: 1724

MICHAEL GERARD GALLAGHER ET AL

Examiner: Peter A. Hruskoci

APPLICATION NO: 09/866,967

FILED: MAY 29, 2001

FOR: TREATMENT OF MINERAL MATERIALS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response Under 37CFR 1.116-  
Expedited Procedure-  
Examining Group 1724

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response to the Office action mailed on April 5, 2004.

The Applicants respectfully request consideration of the amendments by the Examiner although submitted after Final Rejection. The amendments submitted herewith focus the subject matter of the claims, will simplify examination, and better place the claims in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due, or credit any overcharge, as a result of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-1935.